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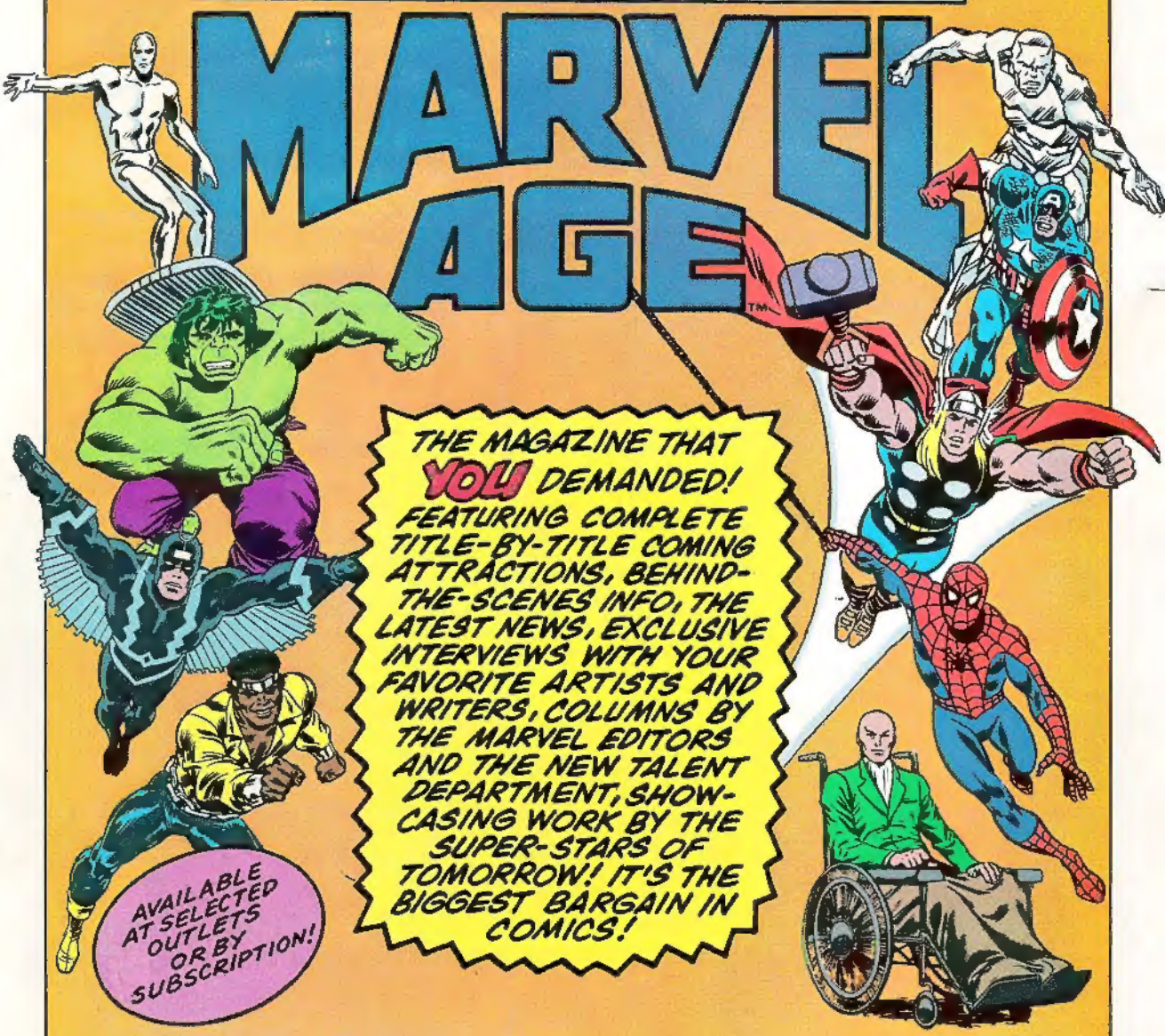

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EDITORIAL

"And the beat goes on..."
by Jim Salicrup

A recent letter:

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

A year ago if someone had asked me what comic books were, I would have said, "a picture book for little kids, right?" Wrong! Boy, was I ever wrong. Recently I became acquainted with a group of people, now my good friends, who shared many interests with me. They also read comics. After a while I became so used to hearing them drop names like **The X-Men**, **Thor**, **Dr. Strange**, **Rom**, **Defenders**, **Avengers**, etc., that I became curious to find out who, or what, these strange things were. To make a long story short, I now collect nine monthlies, three bi-monthlies, plus Limited Series, Graphic Novels, Annuals, and onward ad infinitum. I just wanted to say, Thank you for a fantastic entertainment medium.

I also have some questions. For us newcomers, could you please tell what No-Prizes are and what are the rules regarding them? The second thing is, what on Earth does "Excelsior" mean and what is the story behind it? Thanks much.

Merrin Orland
1521 DeVe Avenue
Modesto, CA 95350

Thank you, Merrin, for your great letter and welcome to the wonderful world of Marvel Comics, you may never want to go home again!

We gave a rather complete explanation of No-Prizes in last issue's Letters column so we'd suggest you check that out. And Excelsior, which is also New York State's motto, means always upward, higher.

But the real reason we ran your letter here was because we got such a big kick reading about how you were converted to the Marvel way of life! It seems like your friends have perfected a sensational way to introduce the uninitiated to the joys of Marvel comics. Instead of trying to cajole and connive you into sharing their interest, which possibly could've been met with resistance, they simply exposed you to their genuine good feelings towards comics. They let you decide for yourself if you wanted to become involved with their passion for Marvel. It wasn't peer pressure, because you were already accepted by your friends.

If you have a story like Merrin's, we'd like to hear about it! Sharing an interest with friends is terrific, so if you're not spreading the Marvel word, get with it! We can't take over the world without you!

SALICRUP

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MARVEL AGEnda

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

The artwork below is by **Paul Gulacy** for the new Epic comic, **SIX FROM SERIUS**.

SIX FROM SERIUS © by Doug Moench and Paul Gulacy. All rights reserved.

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel titles bearing an April cover date. A **Limited Series** is a title which will run for a specific number of issues. A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback sized edition. A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. A word to the wise — please tell your comics specialty shop owner which titles you wish to buy as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your comics shop owner knows which titles you want, you may not get them!

Titles shipping December 6, on sale December 27:

THE THING #10 — The never-before revealed story about what happened to **Benjamin J. Grimm** after he became **the Thing**. It's the story that happened between **FANTASTIC FOUR #1** and 2. If that isn't enough to whet your appetite, wait until you see what new peril awaits when Alicia is released from the hospital! Plus a mysterious disappearance at the end! To top it all off, it's written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**!

DAREDEVIL #205 — The adventurer without sight — the man without fear — in the battle of his life against the menace without a name! A thriller from the pen of **Denny O'Neil**, penciled and inked by a surprise artist! Watch for it!

NEW MUTANTS #14 — "Do You Believe In Magik?" You *will* — when you see **Illyana** in action! That's right — this story picks up where the **MAGIK Limited Series** left off, and when **Colossus's** kid sister battles the evil **S'ym**, the excitement never lets up! Oh, yeah, **the New Mutants** are in this issue, too! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Mandrake**.

KA-ZAR #31 — It's **Ka-Zar's** toughest challenge yet! Thrown out of Pangea by his own people! How can our canny jungle lord survive? Plus — now that you've seen Pangea War Two — the never-before revealed details of the most cataclysmic conflict in savage history — Pangea War One! Written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Paul Neary**. Direct Sales Only. 75¢ High quality Mando stock.

HERCULES (Limited Series) #3 — Not now! Not here! Not the menace of **Thanos**! Unfortunately, yes! When the powerful nega-bands of the original **Captain Marvel** are discovered, then Death is in store for **Hercules**! But **Hercules** must also try to prevent the death of **Apollo**! It all takes place on **Titan**, and it's written, penciled and inked by **Bob Layton**!

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #15 — The Book of Weapons! Just name it, and this volume explains how it works — its specifications — and how to use it! Full technical diagrams of everything from **Iron Man's** armor to **Hawkeye's** arrows! No Marvel expert should be without it. $1.00

SIX FROM SERIUS #1 — It's one tough caper — but these guys can pull it off! They're mercenaries from all over the galaxy, and they band together for "Phase One: Phadra," the cosmic challenge of the eon! Reuniting one of comics' most acclaimed creative teams — **Doug Moench**, writer, and **Paul Gulacy**, artist! Full color art on high quality Hudson stock, from the Epic Comics Line! 32 pp. $1.50

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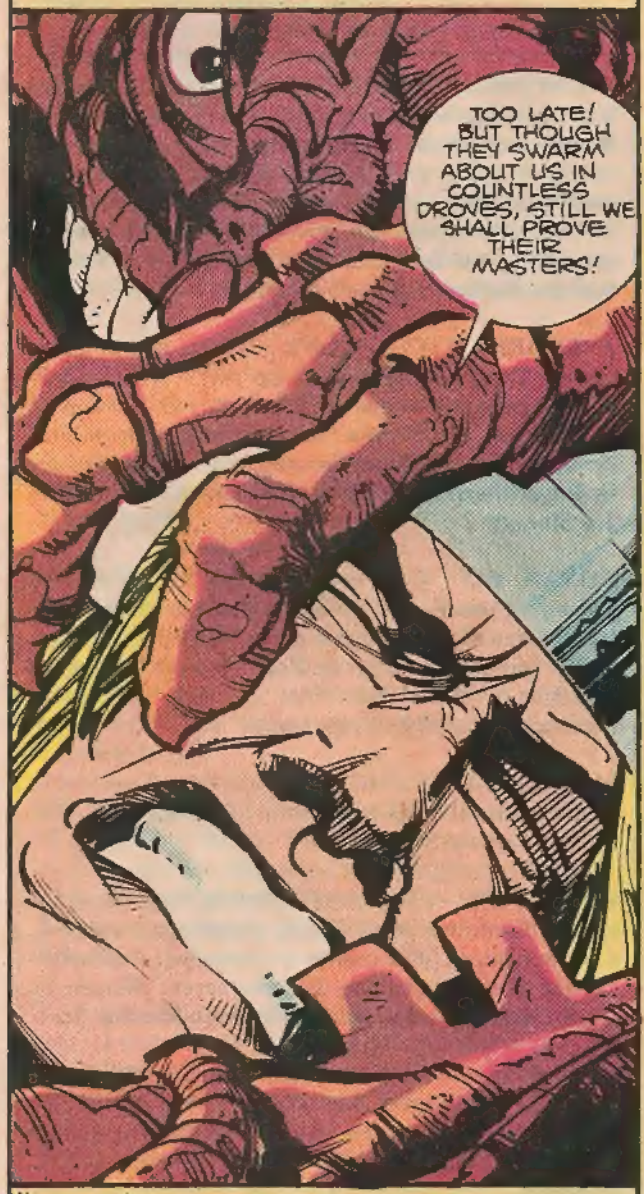

Above: Thor in a tight spot as illustrated by **Walt Simonson**.
Right: A **Strange** encounter drawn by **Tony Salmons**.

Titles shipping December 13, on sale January 3:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #251 — This is the one you've been waiting for! The duel to the death with **the Hobgoblin**! **J. Jonah Jameson** steps down! It's the wrap-up — it's called "Endings —" and it's written by **Roger Stern**, and penciled by **John Romita, Jr.**. And don't miss Spidey's mysterious disappearance!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #292 — Who is **the Slayer**? Is he really the man whom **Captain America** befriended and trusted? Or is he the pawn of **Cap's** most sinister foe? You may find out . . . before Cap loses his life in the eeriest battle of his career! Guest-starring **Baron Zemo**! Written by **J. M. DeMatteis**, and penciled and inked by **Paul Neary**.

THOR #342 — An ancient Norseman challenges **Thor** to a fight to the death! But would **Thor** raise his hammer against an old and helpless man? He does — with valor! Also revealed: a never-seen-before power that **Thor** possesses! Written, penciled, and inked with Asgardian majesty by **Walt Simonson**.

INDIANA JONES #16 — See **Indy** struggle against the gales of the North Pacific! But which will do him in first — the ferocity of the elements, or the beguiling trickery of the villainous **Esmerelda**? And what will be the fate of those valuable Chinese relics? This one's too exciting to miss! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #98 — Conan is after "The Blood Ruby of Death," and death is just what's in store for him! Who are his friends — and who are his enemies? And what is the secret of the gem itself? Big **John Buscema** plotted and penciled this issue, so you know it's a knockout! Script by **Michael Fleisher**, pencils by **John Buscema**. $1.50

DR. STRANGE #64 — **Doctor Strange** investigates a common haunting — but when he lets down his hair and relaxes, he finds his life is in dire peril — victim of the mad genius and sorcerous artist **Claude von Moore**! How can he get out of *this* one? "Artrage" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, and premieres the penciling and inking of **Tony Salmons**! And once you see the art of **Tony Salmons**, you'll be hooked — we guarantee it!

U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #9 — Ten tons of steel on the super-slab . . . jackhammer down . . . convoy! It's **U.S. 1** — truckin' on down the highway toward suspense — danger — thrills! And it's written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**! Ten-four! Featuring a gorgeous full-color cover painting by **Mike Golden**!

X-MEN / MICRONAUTS (Limited Series) #4 — The only way to save the universe is to kill the entity! But if the entity dies, so does **Professor X**! The climactic conclusion to the dimension-spanning saga, written by **Chris Claremont** and **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Butch Guice**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**.

THE GENERIC COMIC #1 — Only the Madmen at Marvel could have thought up a **Generic Comic**! Features one **hero**, one **villain**, one **writer**, one **penciler**, one **inker**, and no artificial colors or preservatives! You'll have to see this one to believe it! 60¢. Direct Sales Only.

TARZAN OF THE APES (Limited Series) #1 — Presenting the origin of the legendary jungle lord in a special two-part Limited Series! A faithful and authentic adaptation of the **Edgar Rice Burroughs** classic! Written by **Mark Evanier** and drawn by **Dan Speigel**.

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Tigra and **the She-Hulk** take a coffee break. Art by **Milgrom** and **Sinnott**.

Titles shipping December 20, on sale January 10:

INCREDIBLE HULK #294 — **Dr. Banner's** Gamma Ray research helps humanity — until the villainous **Boomerang** arrives on the scene! The worst possible villain — at the worst possible moment! How can **the intelligent Hulk** handle it — when he can't even handle his own tortured subconscious? Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. And **the Hulk** mysteriously disappears — why??

AVENGERS #242 — Earth's mightiest heroes gather when "There's Something in the Air!" What is it — who's causing it — and what can they do to stop it? Meanwhile, don't miss the startling, long-awaited moment when **the Vision** becomes mobile again! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**!

CONAN #157 — There's a bounty of rich rewards awaiting **Conan** — if he can rescue the Queen from "The Wizard!" And that's a big *if*! Because stones, spells, and boiling oil are in **Conan's** way! Plotted and penciled by **John Buscema**, scripted by Michael Fleisher, and inked by **Ernie Chan**.

MARVEL TALES #162 — "Spider-Man Goes Mad!" Re-presenting the classic tale from **SPIDER-MAN #24**, by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**!

X-MEN #180 — The title of this month's episode says it all — "Confrontations!" Pitting mutant against mutant, a sinister, secret force cannot be controlled! And what's causing more mysterious disappearances? Written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled by **John Romita, Jr.**.

ROM #53 — What could be more insidious than an invasion by the dreaded **Dire Wraiths?** We don't know what the answer is, but we do know that **Rom** has to face it — or die! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST#104 — *Two* famous villains — and a strange locale! When **Doctor Octopus** takes over the laboratory of **Dr. Curt Conners**, **Doc Connors** must turn to **Power Man** and **Iron Fist** for help! Can they arrive on the scene before **Doc Connors** becomes . . . **the Lizard! Written by Archie Goodwin** and penciled by **Greg La Rocque**.

GI JOE #22 — **Cobra's** too close for comfort — and **the Joe's** are powerless to act. But real American heroes fight on . . . and on . . . and — wait'll you see what happens! Two-fisted adventure, as presented by **Larry Hama**, writer, **Mike Vosberg** penciler, and **Jon D'Agostino** inker!

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #13 — The magazine that *you've* made a national sensation! All across America — readers demand copies of **Marvel Age**! Because it's got up-to-the-minute news! Because it's lavishly illus-

trated! And because it only costs a quarter!

Titles shipping December 27, on sale January 17:

FANTASTIC FOUR #265 — With **Reed** and **Sue** in Connecticut, **Johnny** across town, and **Ben** out of town, nobody's home! Leaving the Baxter Building prey to . . . the terrible **Trapster**! And what macabre schemes he cooks up with no one to oppose him, the F.F. had better find out! Written, penciled, and inked by **John Byrne**. Plus — more on those mysterious disappearances!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #140 — To save a boy wrongly accused of murder, **Spider-Man** and **the Black Widow** sacrifice all! But it may not work — for there's someone against them — someone evil — someone *deadly*! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**!

IRON MAN #181 — Having fought for his life among the Pyramids, you'd think that **Iron Man** would take it easy for a while! Guess again! **Rhodey's** up to his transistors in *action* — while **Tony Stark** is up to his ears in trouble! With writing by **Denny O'Neil**, penciling by **Luke McDonnell**, and inks by **Steve Mitchell**, you *know* it's a knockout!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #89 — **Black Cat's** search for super-powers leads her into the clutches of **the Kingpin** — and it's all for the love of **Spidey**! "Power Search" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**.

DEFENDERS #130 — The Secret Empire lies in defeat — but all is *not* well for **the New Defenders** — because **Professor Power** himself is still on the loose! And if you've ever wondered why they call him power . . . stop wondering! *Plus* — **Nick Fury** and his agents of **SHIELD**! A new calling for **the Beast**! **The New Defenders'** *headquarters* — and anything else that writer **J. M. DeMatteis**, penciler **Don Perlin**, and inker **Kim DeMulder** can fit in!.

STAR WARS #82 — Beginning another cosmic adventure that goes beyond **"Return of the Jedi!"** What could keep **Luke Skywalker** from being reunited with **the Rik Duel gang**? How about a still active imperial Doomsday weapon? We just had to call this story "Still Active After All These Years!" Guest-starring **Kiro**, the Water-Breather! Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**.

ALPHA FLIGHT #9 — **Sasquatch** goes it alone! You'd think that a ten-foot tall, two-ton furry behemoth with a sunny disposition could take care of himself! But that's because you haven't met our surprise super-villain . . . and the guest-star who isn't what he appears to be! Featuring a back-up story detailing the unknown origin of **Snowbird**! All written, penciled, and inked by **John Byrne**.

COYOTE #5 — Rescheduled to appear *this* month — **Coyote** versus **the Road Runner**! Beep-beep! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Charles Truog** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. High quality Baxter stock. $1.50. Direct Sales Only. From the Epic Comics Line.

WHAT IF #44 — "What If the Hulk Went Berserk?" In this tale of an alternate reality, **Bruce Banner** fails to save **Rick Jones** from the gamma-ray explosion that created **the Hulk**! How does this cause **the Hulk** to become a murderous killing machine? Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and guest-starring **the Fantastic Four**, **Thor**, and the original **Iron Man**! 48 pp. $1.

NOTE: Due to schedule changes, **WHAT IF #43** will feature two great stories — one, a sequel to **WHAT IF #32**, written and penciled by **Mark Gruenwald**, and inked by **Jack Abel**, starring **Phoenix**, **Dr. Strange**, and **the Silver Surfer**! The second, a sequel to "What If Conan Walked the Earth Today?" by **Peter B. Gillis**, and penciled and inked by **Bob Hall**! 48 pp. $1.

JACK OF HEARTS (Limited Series) #4 — The wrap-up! You've waited long enough — and now you're getting it! The *full* story behind **Jack's** heritage, and the dramatic climax to this most startling and innovative Limited Series! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, and penciled and inked by upcoming superstar **George Freeman**!

MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #5 — Re-presenting "We Are The Enigma Force!" from **MICRONAUTS #11**, and "To the Victors Belongs a World" from **MICRONAUTS #12**, both written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Michael Golden** and inked by **Al Milgrom**! High quality paper — and a wraparound cover by **Butch Guice** and **Al Milgrom**! 48 pp. $2.00. Direct Sales Only.

SPECIAL NOTE! You've probably been wondering about all those "mysterious disappearances" that you've read about in this month's Coming Attractions column. You know, **Spider-Man** mysteriously disappears, **the Hulk** mysteriously disappears, and so on!

Well, you'll be finding a *lot* of your favorites mysteriously vanishing. Where are they going? They're "leaving" to participate in nothing short of the most extraordinary event in the history of the Marvel Universe! That's all we'll say for now . .

Don't worry, though — you won't be left out. You'll be privy to the whole affair. And it won't be any ordinary, run-of-the-mill affair — but a spectacular adventure of unparallelled scope. Beyond your *wildest* expectations.

And now if you'll excuse us, we've got to mysteriously disappear!

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after the column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause!

NEWSWATCH

First things first — we've got a correction to make. **MARVEL TEAM-UP THRILLERS**, the trade paperback reprinting our greatest team-up adventures with an introduction by **Stan Lee**, will ship October 11, instead of September 13. Furthermore, the price will be $5.95.

ANNOUNCING: MARVEL PRESS!

Now that that's over, we've got great news! **Marvel Press** is here! What's **Marvel Press?** It's simply our latest publishing enterprise, bringing you full-color posters and high-quality Limited Edition portfolios by Marvel's finest artists. At long last, a regular supply of deluxe comic art editions will be available to you direct from Marvel at all Direct Sales Comics Specialty Shops.

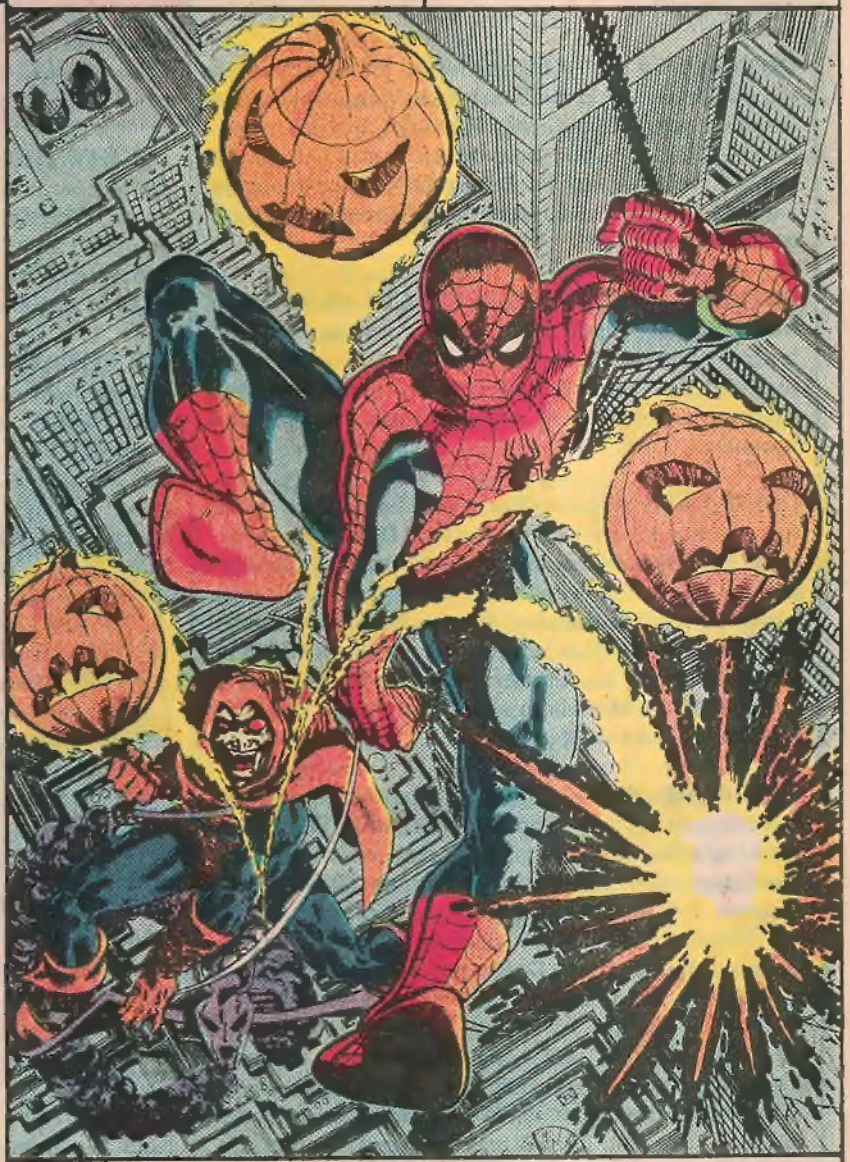
Our posters and portfolios are designed with the comic art collector in mind. Posters will be 22" by 34" on good stock, in full color, and will list for $3.95 each. Portfolios will consist of 6 to 10 plates each, many in full color, reproduced by the finest processes available on heavy stock. Portfolios will list for about $10.00 each, but exact prices will vary. Posters will be packaged rolled in poly-bags, and portfolios will be packaged flat.

Marvel Press will issue three releases per year. Each release will make available four posters and generally two portfolios, although the number of portfolios per release will vary. Our first release, due out in October of this year, will feature a deluxe poster of none other than **the Amazing Spider-Man**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Al Milgrom**, and a portfolio starring Canada's Greatest Super-team, **Alpha Flight**, penciled and inked by **John Byrne**!

Also scheduled for upcoming release are an **Alien Legion** portfolio by **Frank Cirocco**, and posters of **the X-Men** by **Butch Guice, the Fantastic Four** by **John Byrne, Cloak and Dagger** by **Rick Leonardi** and **Terry Austin, Doctor Strange** by **Paul Smith** and **Terry Austin, the Avengers** by **Al Milgrom**, and the gallery of **Marvel Team-Up** stars by **Ron Frenz**!

Posters and Portfolios from **Marvel Press** — look for them at the comics specialty outlet where you regularly shop!

Last but not least — don't miss the exciting premiere of Marvel Productions' latest and greatest animated cartoon! **DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS** will be on every Saturday morning starting September 17 on CBS. If you like **Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends**, you'll *love* how we've turned the world's greatest fantasy game into a terrific animated adventure!



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Art by **John Romita, Jr.** and **Al Milgrom**

MY NAME IS ARCHIE GOODWIN. I AM A COMIC BOOK WRITER.
OFTEN, WHEN MAKING AN APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC, I AM ASKED:
HEY! HOW D
YOU THINK
ALL THEM C
COMIC BOO
STORIES

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BEHIND THE LINES

--I AM ABLE TO REVEAL EXACTLY HOW I THINK UP THOSE CRAZY STORIES.
NOW, THROUGH THE KIND AUSPICES OF MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE--
OF COURSE, FOR THE REALLY TOUGH ONES, I USE TWO HANDS.

"Ideas" by Archie Goodwin

BEYOND STAR WARS

Art by **Ron Frenz** and **Tom Palmer**

A conversation with **STAR WARS** editor **Louise Jones** and writer **Mary Jo Duffy** about the future of the Greatest Space Fantasy of All Time following **RETURN OF THE JEDI**.

by **Patrick Daniel O'Neill**

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: *At the end of the film **RETURN OF THE JEDI**, and at the end of Marvel's adaptation, the war is over, and the two major villains are dead — now what do you do?*

LOUISE JONES: First of all, who says the two major villains are dead?

JO DUFFY: More to the point, who says the war is over? Since when has a war ended when one leader got killed?

MA: *Good point.*

LOUISE: It seems to me that the war is just beginning.

JO: What you've got now is an open game again. It's going to be every man, woman and child for himself. There's this big Imperial superstructure set up, and suddenly no figurehead at the top.

LOUISE: Now, what do you think would happen, in real life, if that happened?

MA: *Obviously there'd be a struggle for power.*

LOUISE: You bet!

MA: *If nature abhors a vacuum, power abhors it even more.*

JO: "Nature abhors a vacuum." I'm glad you said that, because it saves me the trouble of saying it — and I hate using platitudes. That really is the approach we're taking. Either the Empire will persist, with people scrambling to get to the top of it, or it's going to collapse into absolute, utter chaos. Then somebody's going to have to throw together something quickly to take its place.

LOUISE: It could be both . . .

JO: . . . or neither. That's going to be the backdrop. We've got this wonderful backdrop of political intrigue to play with — and how different characters react in this situation: **Luke**, the enlightened, trained, at-one-with-himself-and-the-Force Jedi versus **Leia**, his sister, who's been raised to ascend to a throne, and is a great figurehead in the Rebellion. And versus **Lando Calrissian**, who is basically a pretty sharp conman, and wants to be at the top of anything he does. Versus **Han Solo**, who's tied up with a lady who's been raised to be a monarch, but who himself is one of the all-time great galactic rovers. We've got them, we've got droids, we've got Wookiees, and in addition, we've got a lot of potential for self-contained stories that don't really touch on this. Instead of having to do the Rebels versus the Empire every go-round — which was a great thing to do since it was the compelling storyline — we can do individual, slice-of-life stories on different worlds. We can pick two, three, four, six members of our team and put them on a planet and let them have an adventure that maybe doesn't relate to the political struggle.

We've been very fortunate. I, and **David Michelinie** before me, going back through **Archie Goodwin** all the way to **Roy Thomas** six years ago, have each been able to introduce a couple of recurring characters who

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were created solely for the comic, who our readers like. They clamor to see them come back and do new things and meet up with new combinations of the heroes.

MA: *You just gave us brief sketches of the lead characters. Can I ask you to elaborate on how you see those people? **Leia**, for example, a woman who was raised to ascend a throne, but that throne, her very planet, doesn't exist anymore. How does that affect her as a person?*

JO: It probably gives her a tremendous sense of loss and disassociation. She immediately gathered this surrogate family around her, and it's a great relief to her to know she has a family once again. But I think a person like **Leia** is just naturally going to be a leader. One gets that general air, one becomes a commander by nature. I think in any situation, **Leia** will be the kind of person who others — unless they are absolute jerks — will look up to and will defer to and whose opinion they will respect. There will be a tendency for her to be a key person in any situation that she enters.

MA: ***Luke** started out as a "hick farm kid." He's now quite different from that, but is there any of that boy from Tatooine left in **Luke Skywalker**, the fully-trained Jedi?*

JO: Yeah, but I don't think there are going to be overt manifestations of gauchery, like the ones you get in the first, or even the second movie. As a matter of fact, **Ron Frenz**, and **Louise**, and **Tom Palmer** and I have all discussed this — we've had some fun with the "gosh-wow" gawky side of **Luke**, and in the last couple of issues of **RETURN OF THE JEDI** we're gradually phasing out the "sand-in-the-ears" kid from the desert farm from his character. From now on, if we want to do that with someone, we have to find someone else to do it with. **Luke** has moved on, he's a grown-up now. I don't think he'll ever forget where he was raised, or how he was raised, but I think other people are going to have to do the double-takes, and the gawking, and the tripping over their own feet. **Luke** is a little too together for that, now, and I think he's going to have more serenity and more self assuredness. He's going to be a little bit cosmic, in a laid-back kind of way.

LOUISE: Also, I think that it's a question of nature and nurture. We all know who **Luke's** father is, and we know that **Luke** is *not* just some ordinary farm kid — he was somebody very special from the moment he was born. I think the genes will tell. You can think of **Luke** as a gawky farm kid, because that's how he was raised, but it was obvious even from the moment we met him in **STAR WARS**, that there was something special about him. That specialness is becoming more defined as the saga continues.

JO: He's not going to lose his humanity, but he is going to lose his adolescence.

MA: ***Han Solo's** been described as nothing more than a "grown-up adolescent." He now finds himself*

doubly tied to a permanent home, something he's never had before. He has close friendships among the Rebels and he's admitted he's in love with one of the Alliances's political leaders. How does this affect the roving scoundrel of the spaceways?

LOUISE: You'll find out.

JO: I think some fans make assumptions about the choices **Han** is going to make, that we're not making. We're not assuming that he's going to go with **Leia** and the Alliance.

LOUISE: We're not assuming that these are necessarily the choices he's making. Now, we're not assuming that he's *not* making those choices.

JO: He's got to make a choice between the life he's led and the people he's come to love.

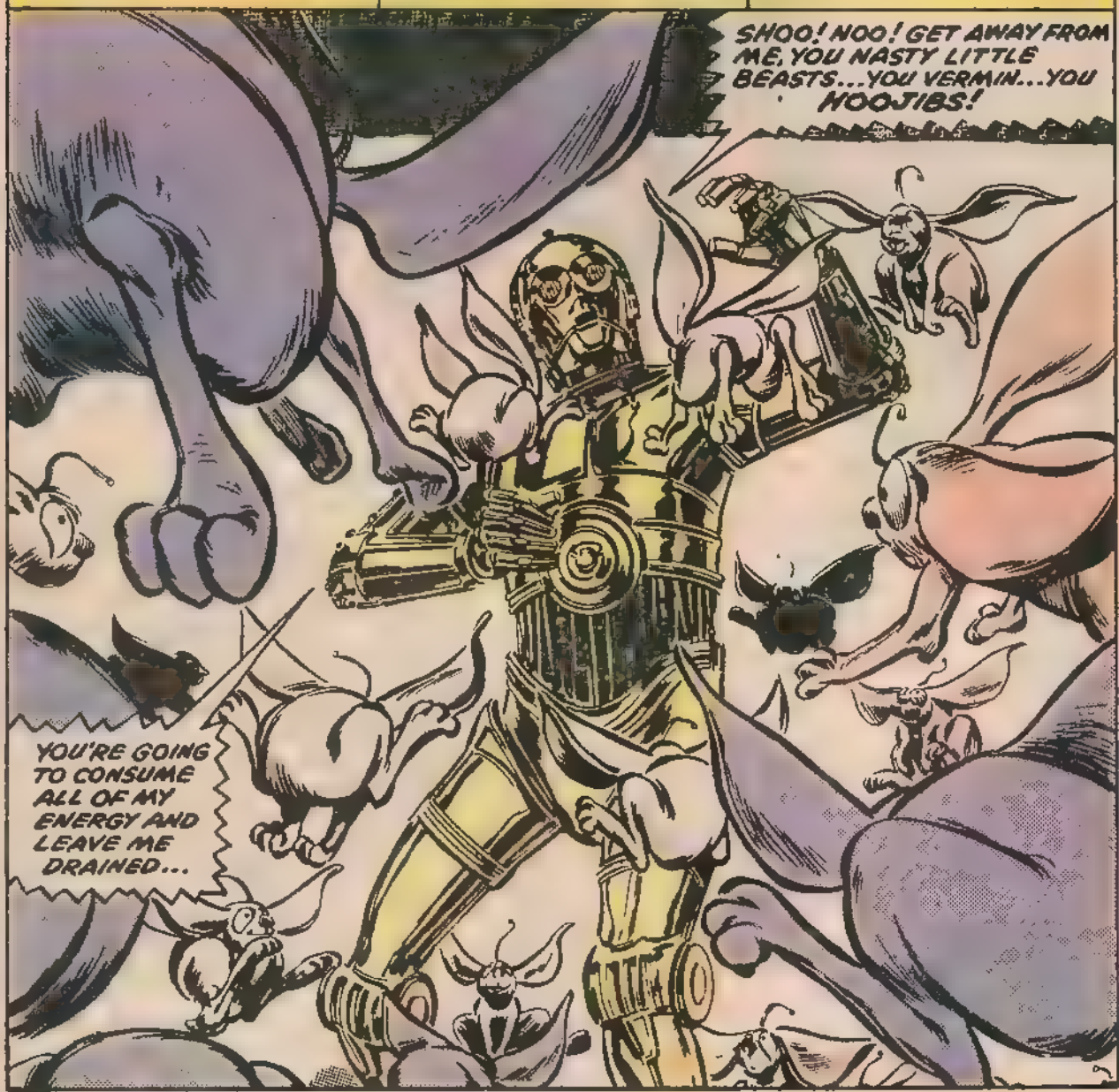
LOUISE: Can the roving space pirate settle down and raise pansies, that's what we want to know. Tune in three or four issues from now and find out.

JO: And if he can't, will there be anyone willing to step in and take over his job? I figure that **Leia** was in a state of "hands-off" while **Han** was a popsicle. If something tragic has happened to your loved one, you romanticize, you idealize, you're going to be true. But now, **Leia** has to deal with the reality. I love him, too, but he's a real jerk, sometimes. **Leia** might be more available now that **Han's** thawed out and not this tragic figure that she must be true to.

Make no assumptions about where these characters are headed, because we're not.

MA: *We were talking earlier about political struggle and intrigue. Will that include a look into the fight to become top dog in whatever government the Alliance attempts to establish?*

JO: As for who is going to ally themselves now — we haven't made final decisions. We're taking individual developments one issue at a time, although we do have a general direction. Definitely, we will deal, not only with the power struggle, but with the struggle to have a *structure* within the Rebellion. Up until now, the Rebels have not been *for* anything — they've been a reaction to the empire. Now that the Empire doesn't exist, if they get the opportunity to be in charge, what will *they* do?


SHOO! NOO! GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU NASTY LITTLE BEASTS...YOU VERMIN...YOU HOOJIBS!
YOU'RE GOING TO CONSUME ALL OF MY ENERGY AND LEAVE ME DRAINED...

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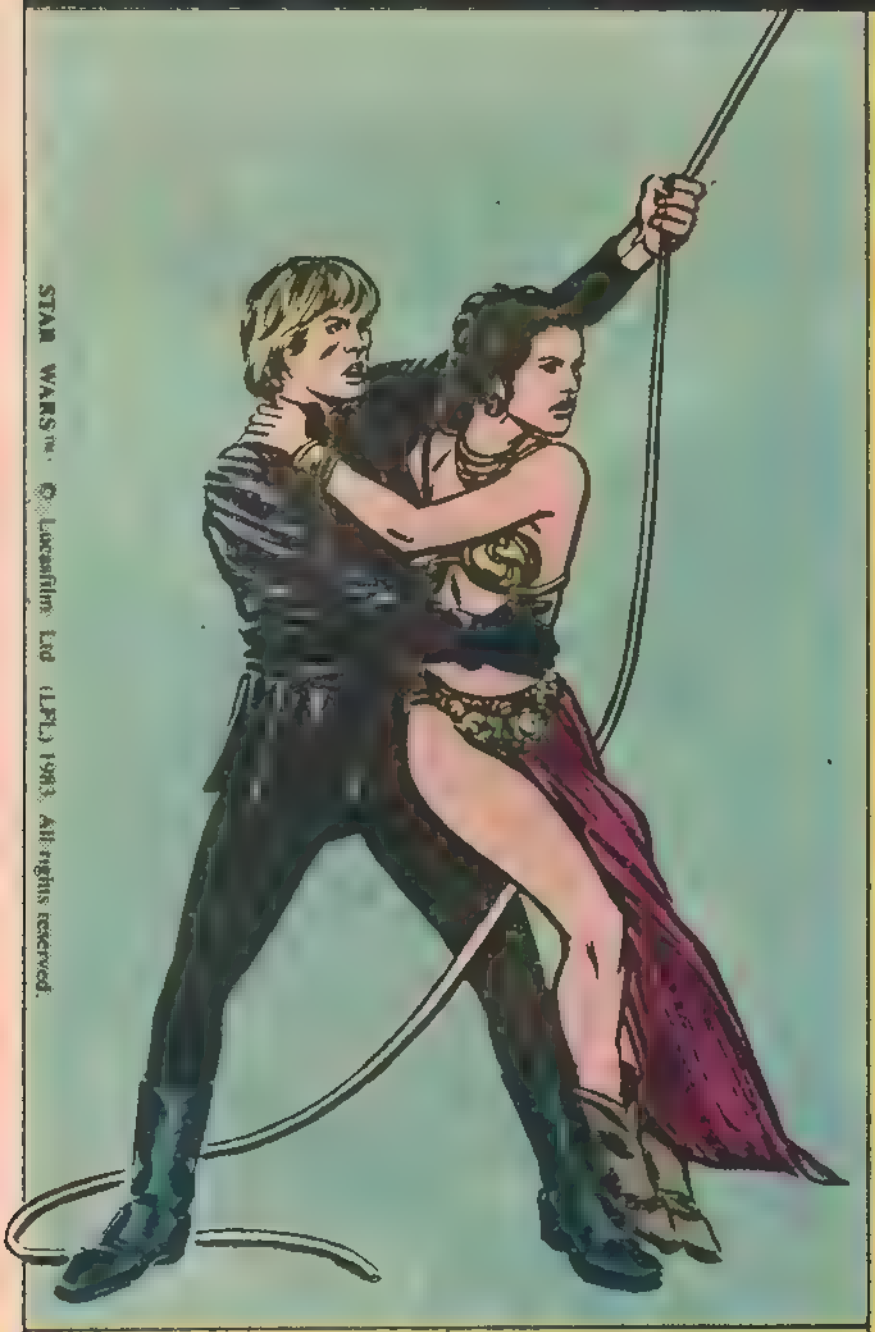

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MA: *This kind of space fantasy has always relied on a strong Good versus Evil motif: the Alliance against the Empire. **Luke** against **Vader** and the **Emperor**. Taken at face value, **RETURN OF THE JEDI** ends with **Vader** and the **Emperor** dead. What do you do now for a personification* of that Evil

JO: Yes, it does *appear* that they're gone doesn't it? We're going to make or discover a new personification of Evil, if need be. Good versus Evil is something I'm all in favor of. I believe that, if there's a clear difference between them, then the nice people should come up winners and the bad people should come up losers. That's a world view I'm very comfortable with.

But who's good and who's evil isn't always so easy to tell. I think it's interesting to start exploring which is which. To start looking at what the nuances are when you don't have a **Darth Vader** — a character that everyone hissed as soon as they first saw him on screen in **STAR WARS**. But somebody doesn't have to be **Darth Vader** to be evil, and it can take a long time to find out who's who. I like action. I like to have fun with the book; on the other hand, you can sneak in a little philosophy, a little psychology, underhandedness, duplicity and so on.

MA: *Between **STAR WARS** and **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK**, the comic book had to go on telling stories that people would read and enjoy, but the creative staff always had to know that in two-and-a-half or three years, you'd have to take a storyline that would go directly into the film coming out. And frequently, you had little idea what the film would be . . .*

LOUISE: Occasionally you would get clues . . . when you did a plot that was too close to the film's plot, and Lucasfilm would say "You can't do that."

MA: *Yes, you had some problems with **Jo's** story about the **Lahsbees** and the hang-gliders —*

LOUISE: It happened with the first plot that **David Michelinie** did as well. It was about building a second Death Star, and again Lucasfilm said, "You can't do that." You know when you come to close.

MA: *—but this time, **George Lucas** has said he's taking at least a two year hiatus before he even begins production on the next **STAR WARS** film, which means you've got five years or more without having to worry about stepping on **Lucas'** toes. Does that make a difference in the direction the book can take from here on?*

LOUISE: Certainly. We're not sure that we don't have to worry about stepping on toes, because we haven't tried any stepping yet. We'll find out that there may be a couple of plotlines we have in mind that they may nix.

My understanding is that the next round of films from **George Lucas** will be the first trilogy, the ones that precede **STAR WARS**, so that should not be any problem for us. We're going to be doing stories that follow **JEDI**. I'd say the field is wide open. As far as I can tell, we're going to be able to do anything.

JO: Plus, as I said earlier, we've been lucky to have introduced a lot of characters into the stories that our readers have gotten very involved with — to the point that we've gotten letters expressing very strong emotional attachments to people that are only part of the comic book. If we do a good job, our readers are going to care about what we do with the characters.

THE ELEKTRA™ SAGA

A preview by **D. Jon Zimmerman**

For days now, Editor-in-Chief **Jim Shooter** and editor **Denny O'Neil** have been cruising the corridors of the House of Ideas with knowing smiles of supreme satisfaction. **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** editor, **Jim Salicrup's** fabled nose for news smelled a story of electrifying proportions and ordered me out to get that scoop! Corralled in his office a mere two days before he would fly to California, Denny couldn't keep quiet any more!

ELEKTRA'S back!

But hold onto your hat, because *that* news is only the beginning! For **Daredevil's** greatest love and deadliest enemy returns in a way that has never been done before in the history of comics! Denny leaned forward in his chair and explained excitedly that not only was this special project to be a four-issue Limited Series on Baxter paper, not only would it have a new **Frank Miller** wraparound cover, not only would it have new Frank Miller poster-style Elektra illustrations on the inside covers, not only would it run some material in color for the very first time, and not only would it also have *new* pages of Frank Miller story and art, it would have *more*!

It would be a return to that era of Elektra's life depicted in the now classic issues of **DAREDEVIL** with one major twist – they would this time focus entirely on **Elektra**!

How did Frank and Denny accomplish this? Denny had a quick answer, "We took the old **DD** stories of Frank's and edited out everything that did not deal directly with **Elektra**. Then Frank did new pages for the opening, new bridging material where it was needed to make for a smooth story, in fact, he restructured the story, effectively making it a whole new saga!

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"I've seen the penciled wraparound cover that Frank did for the first issue and it looks great!" continued Denny. **Klaus Janson** will be inking the new material as well as coloring the whole shebang.

"This is a direct sales title that will be on the stands October 11. We've got it on a monthly schedule, with each of the four issuse being 48 pages long."

And, as to his own feelings about the series, Denny exclaims, "I think it's a terrific project! It brings together everything about **Elektra** into one set of stories – it fills in all the gaps. It was an interesting challenge to bring everything together and I'm very happy with the results. I'm sure the fans will be, too!"

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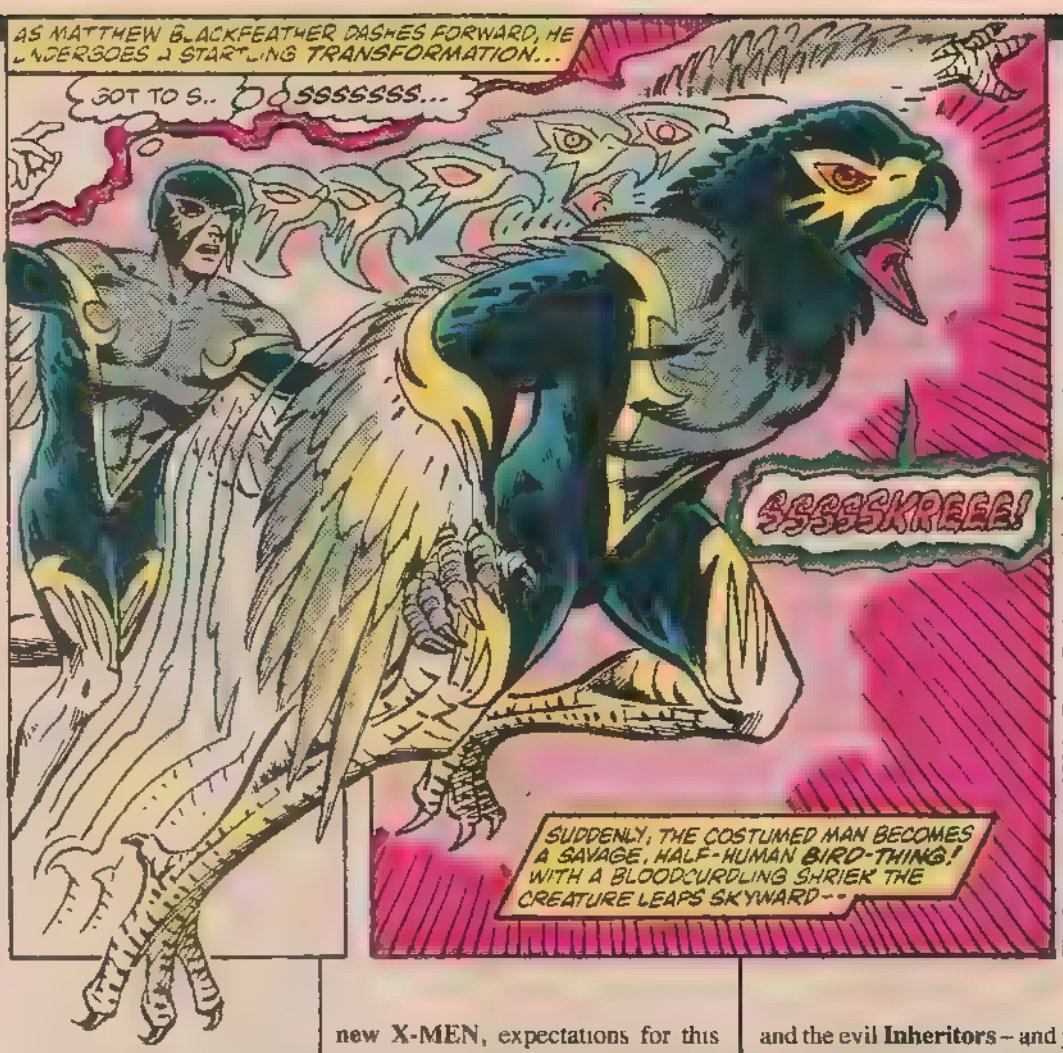
AS MATTHEW BLACKFEATHER DASHES FORWARD, HE UNDERGOES A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION...
GOT TO S.. OSSSSSSS...
SSSSSKREEE!
SUDDENLY, THE COSTUMED MAN BECOMES A SAVAGE, HALF-HUMAN BIRD-THING! WITH A BLOODCURDLING SHRIEK THE CREATURE LEAPS SKYWARD--

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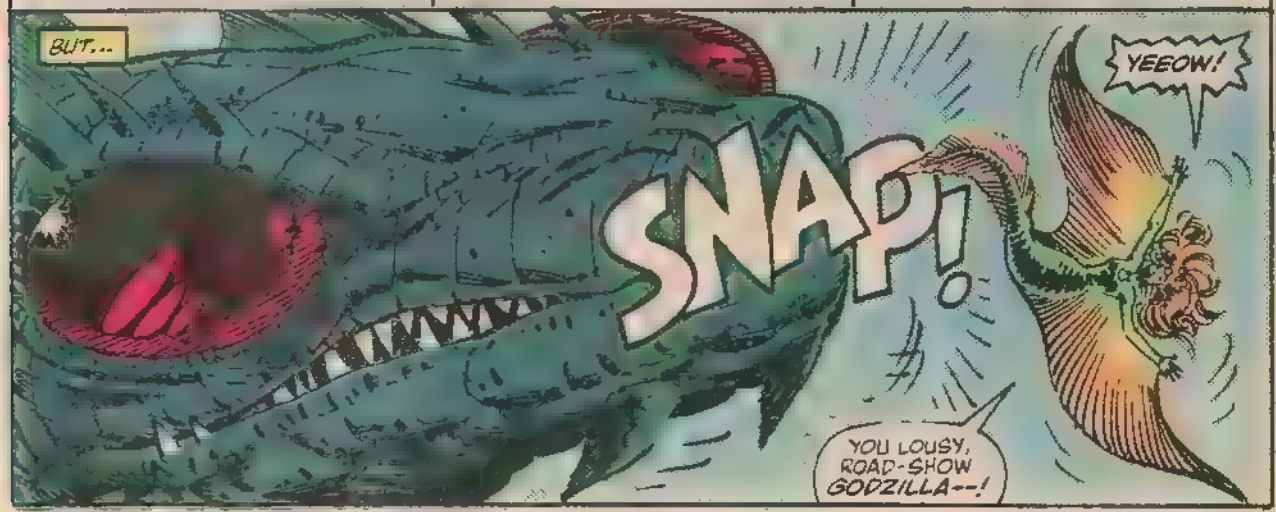
Who are **the Futurians**? That's the question that people have been asking since word leaked out that **Dave Cockrum** was writing and illustrating a new Graphic Novel for Marvel. No project from Marvel in recent months has generated so much excitement, though the details have been shrouded in secrecy. Because of Dave's status as co-creator of **the new X-MEN**, expectations for this new Graphic Novel are especially high, but there is no doubt that Dave will not only live up to them, but exceed them.

Who are **the Futurians**? They are Marvel's newest super team, unlike any super team you have ever seen before. They come from the far future where Earth is ruled by two groups – the benevolent **Futurians** and the evil **Inheritors** – and yet they also come from pre-cataclysm Atlantis, ancient Egypt, and present day America.

How did this unusual team come to be? **The Inheritors**, desiring to conquer all of Earth, have developed a time machine powered by the sun. They intend to use it to conquer the past. **The Futurians** cannot follow without making the sun go nova.



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What they do is send specially-tailored chromosome packages into the past. These chromosomes are absorbed into the gene pool and cause the creation of latent super beings. They also send the mind of one of their greatest scientists back to the 1963 to collect these super beings and ready them for the challenge of the invasion of **the Inheritors** which will take place in 1983. Under the cover of Future Dynamics, a technology company, **the Futurians** await the coming of their malevolent foes.

By the time of the arrival of **the Inheritors**, eight super powered **Futurians** have been located. The leader of the group is **Avatar**. He is 'immortal' and endowed with the powers of flight and strength, as well as being mentally superior to normal humans. **Avatar** was a wizard in Atlantis.

Another immortal is the heroine, **Sunswift**. She was born in Egypt three thousand years ago. She presently lives in the sun. She controls vast amounts of light, heat, and energy, and cannot even set foot on Earth because she would melt the ground. She has to hover in the air. **Sunswift** is in love with **Avatar**, but her powers keep them apart. She is, in a manner of speaking, too hot to handle

The third member of the team is **Silver Shadow**, an albino with silvery-white skin. He travels in shadows, able to disappear in one shadow and reappear in another He can also cause shadows to drift off the walls into the air

Terrayne, the Earth Mover, is in Dave's words, "a huge lumpy mess." He has the ability to create geysers and volcanoes within a limited range and can sink into the ground and walk through it as if it were air.

Blackmane is a leonine **Futurian** Acrobatics is his specialty. He is a good natured fellow who likes nothing more than a barroom brawl.

The sixth **Futurian** is **Werehawk**. He has the ability to transform himself into a humanoid hawk. He is a savage warrior type.

The Mosquito is a little girl with bug wings who thinks that being a super heroine is "neat." She can send out ultrasonic waves with her wings and carries a gun that shoots anesthetic and explosive darts

The last member of the team is **Silky**. She is a fish lady who can breathe underwater. In addition she can transform into a manta form in which she can fly as well as swim.

The Futurians will operate on an Earth all their own in what Dave calls "the Cockrum universe." If the Graphic Novel spins off into a series, Dave plans on revealing that there are other super heroes operating on this Earth outside of **the Futurians**, who might pop up for a guest appearance. A crossover with the Marvel universe is not out of the question, either.

Dave is extremely excited about the projet He is trying to infuse a lot of lighthearted fun into the book. His inspiration, of course, is the work of **Stan Lee**. Dave feels that **the Futurians** will have that old Marvel spirit.

Cockrum is uniquely qualified to be working on this very special project. He is well known for his work on super team comics. He has worked on both **THE X-MEN** and **THE AVENGERS**, as well as **MS. MARVEL** and **JOHN CARTER**.

THE FUTURIANS promises to be quite an event. Dave claims that it's his best work yet. Don't miss it!

THEN AT LAST THEY ARE ASSEMBLED INTO A NEARBY BREEDING ROOM TO CONFRONT THEIR NEW IDENTITIES.
HARRY ROBBINS IS TERRAYNE, THE EARTHMOVER.
WALTER BONNER IS BLACKMANE.
ANDREW PENDRAGON HAS BECOME AVATAR.
MATTHEW BLACKFEATHER IS WEREHAWK.
DANA MORGAN S MOSQUITO.
TRACY WINTERS IS SILKIE.
JOHNATHAN DARKNYT IS SILVER SHADOW.

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ARCHIE GOODWIN RETURNS TO POWER MAN AND IRON FIST™

by **Robert J. Sodaro**

Let's face it: we all have, at one time or another, had the desire to return home. Not necessarily to stay, but just to walk around the old neighborhood and see what has been happening while we have been gone. Sometimes we get the chance, often we do not. Then even if the opportunity arrives, it may often be a painful one.

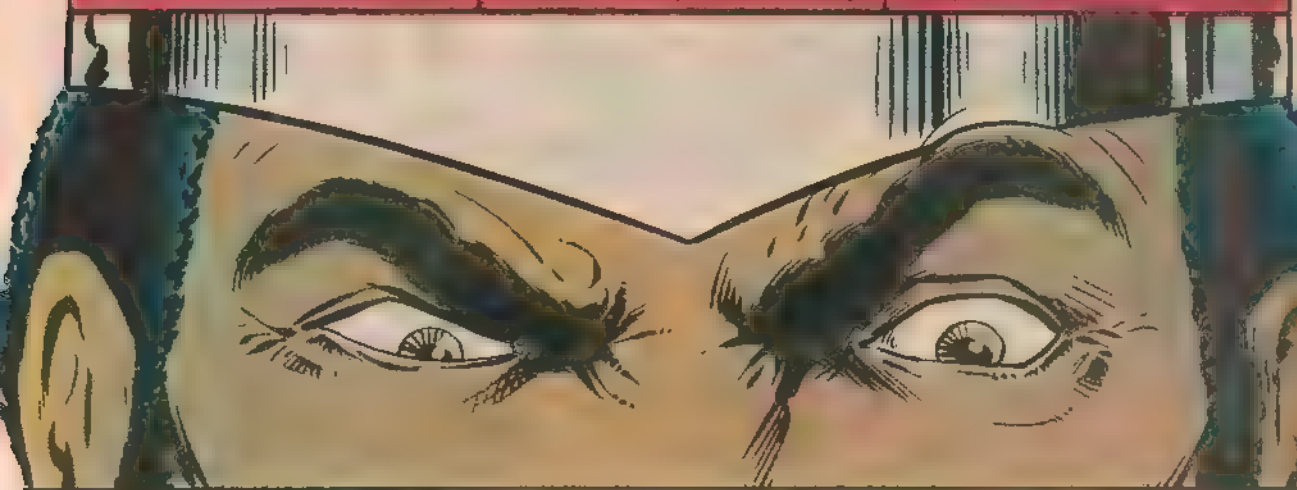
The desire to return home has another side to it as well, especially in comics. That is the desire to see a favorite writer or artist return to a book they had worked on, and pen just one more tale of the character they created, or were best remembered for. Who wouldn't want to see a new **Stan Lee / Jack Kirby FANTASTIC FOUR** or a **Stan Lee / Steve Ditko SPIDER-MAN**. It is not often that a writer or artist receives the chance to "return home."

Yet that's exactly what will soon be happening in the pages of **POWERMAN AND IRON FIST** when **Archie Goodwin** returns to write three special issues (102-4). Anyone aware of the talent and ability of Archie will realize that in this case "going home" will be a very delightful experience. When **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** asked why he was returning to the book after nearly 100 issue absence, Archie responded: "Well, **Denny O'Neil** had mentioned that he was looking for a writer to fill in while he was searching for a regular writer for the book, so I volunteered, and it's sort of interesting going back."

A lot has happened to **Luke Cage** in the intervening years. His book has changed its name from **HERO FOR HIRE** to **POWERMAN** and after he teamed up with **Danny Rand** it became **POWERMAN AND IRON FIST**. A great deal has happened to this title since Archie left, and as he himself states, "A lot of good people have worked on it since then." Including Archie's assistant on the Epic line, **Jo Duffy**.

Another reason that Archie gives for his returning to the book, that is long overdue. Although this is hard to believe as he has more than enough to keep him busy editing **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** and the Epic line of comics, as well as writing the **STAR WARS** syndicated comic strip. Because of this heavy schedule Archie says, "I don't see myself tasting in a regular book. But as I didn't like writing comics, I wouldn't be doing these special issues."

The three stories (or 60 pages) in question promise to be very exciting, as Archie intends to maintain the integrity of the book. He does not plan on making any major changes in the characters, leaving that option up to the new writer on the book. At this time no one has been permanently set due to join the series. Editor Denny O'Neil admits that while several people have been interviewed for the job, he has not quite found what he is looking



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Art by **Greg LaRocque** and **Andy Mushynsky**

for yet.

Issues 102 & 103 form a two-parter, and feature a new villain named **Doombringer**. What makes **Doombringer** unique is that, unlike other megalomaniacs who want to conquer the world, he wants to bring about its end. Thus it is up to **Luke** and **Danny** to stop him, and prevent his causing World War Three.

The third Goodwin issue, 104, was actually not plotted by Archie, but rather was plotted by some fans at the Multi-Media convention in Philadelphia. Denny and Archie were sitting on a "Let's plot a Marvel comic" panel and the fans at the Con came up with the ideas that Archie will use in that issue. The plot revolves around **Dr. Octopus** and **The Lizard**, both of whom were suggested by **Jim Shooter**. This is an issue that Archie is looking forward to writing, as it was an interesting experience for him to plot the book in this manner. In this story, **Doc Ock** has somehow caused **Curt Conners** to revert back to **the Lizard**, and **Conners** hires **Powerman** and **Iron Fist** to help him stop **the Lizard**, and to get **Dr. Octopus** off his back.

As far as working with **Greg LaRoque** is concerned, Archie is very impressed with Greg's work. "Judging from a **GHOST RIDER** that he did," Archie said, "I think that he is going to attract a lot of attention. It looks like his work has recently made a real nice jump forward, and he's showing even more potential than he's shown in the past."

Needless to say, Greg is very excited about working with someone of Archie's reputation. Greg feels that the three issues are very solid, and is enjoying the experience.

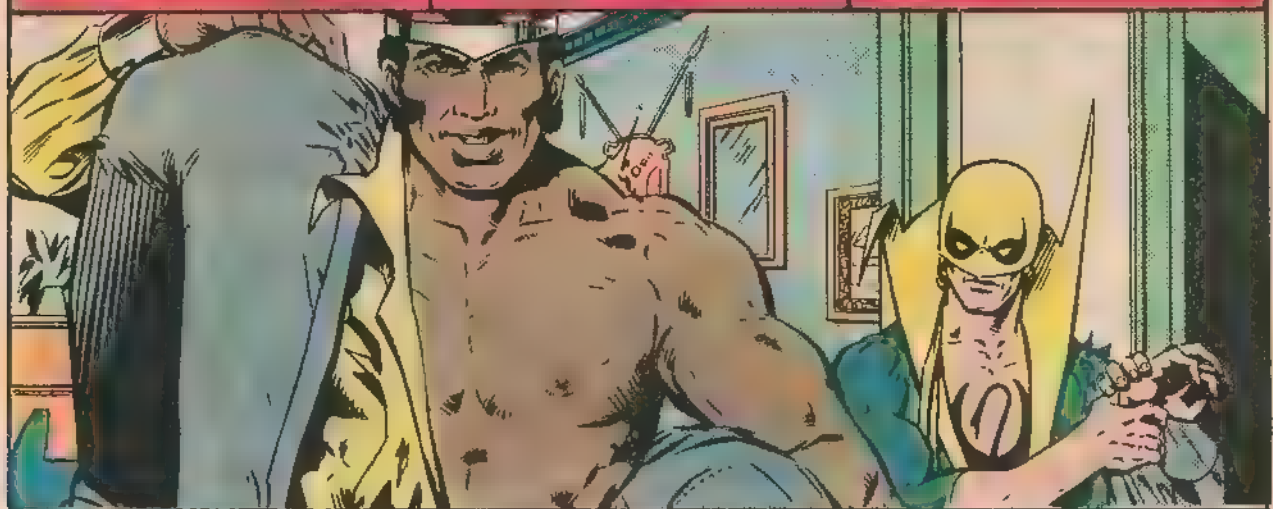
POWERMAN AND IRON FIST is Greg's first regular assignment for Marvel, and he is looking forward to being able to offer some creative input. In taking over the regular art chores, Greg has some very strong opinions on who the characters are, and how they should be handled. Some of the elements that he would like to see brought out in the future are humor, an exoticness in the characters, and a more precise characterization of both **Luke** and **Danny**, as well as their supporting cast.

One of the things that he touched on was that the **POWERMAN AND IRON FIST** book is much akin to a family. He feels that there is a wealth of characters in the book and a great many stories can be evolved from them, and their interreactions with each other. Greg stated that, "If you go back to the original team-up, you have two characters that are completely different, that shouldn't even be friends. You can get a lot of stories out of that."

Since teaming up together, **Luke** and **Danny** have gone through better than fifty issues, and should Greg have his way, they will be seeing many more to come. "I'm just waiting for the phone call saying that they found the new writer, and I have all my notes, and I'll be there to make my presentation."

So while Greg and Marveldom assembled waits for the announcement to be made on who will take up the [redacted] **FIST**, we will all be treated to three exciting issues scripted by one of the most impressive writers in comics, Archie Goodwin.

To paraphrase an old TV show theme . . . welcome back Archie, welcome back. ●



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Beauty AND THE BEAST™

When we at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE heard that the House of Ideas was going ahead with a Limited Series starring **The Dazzler** and **The Beast**, we thought that it would be the most daring, most imaginative team-up of superstars ever to come along in the history of comics! House of *Ideas*, indeed! How could Marvel team up the pulchritudinous songstress and epitome of glamor with a big, bluish-black biochemist-turned-gorilloid? *And* make it believable? *And* exciting?

Well, **Mark Lerer** managed to corner **Ann Nocenti**, the writer to whom this challenge has fallen. Ann was more than willing to submit to our questions. To wit:

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE *Ok, you've got us to suspend our disbelief — **The Dazzler** gets together with **The Beast**?*

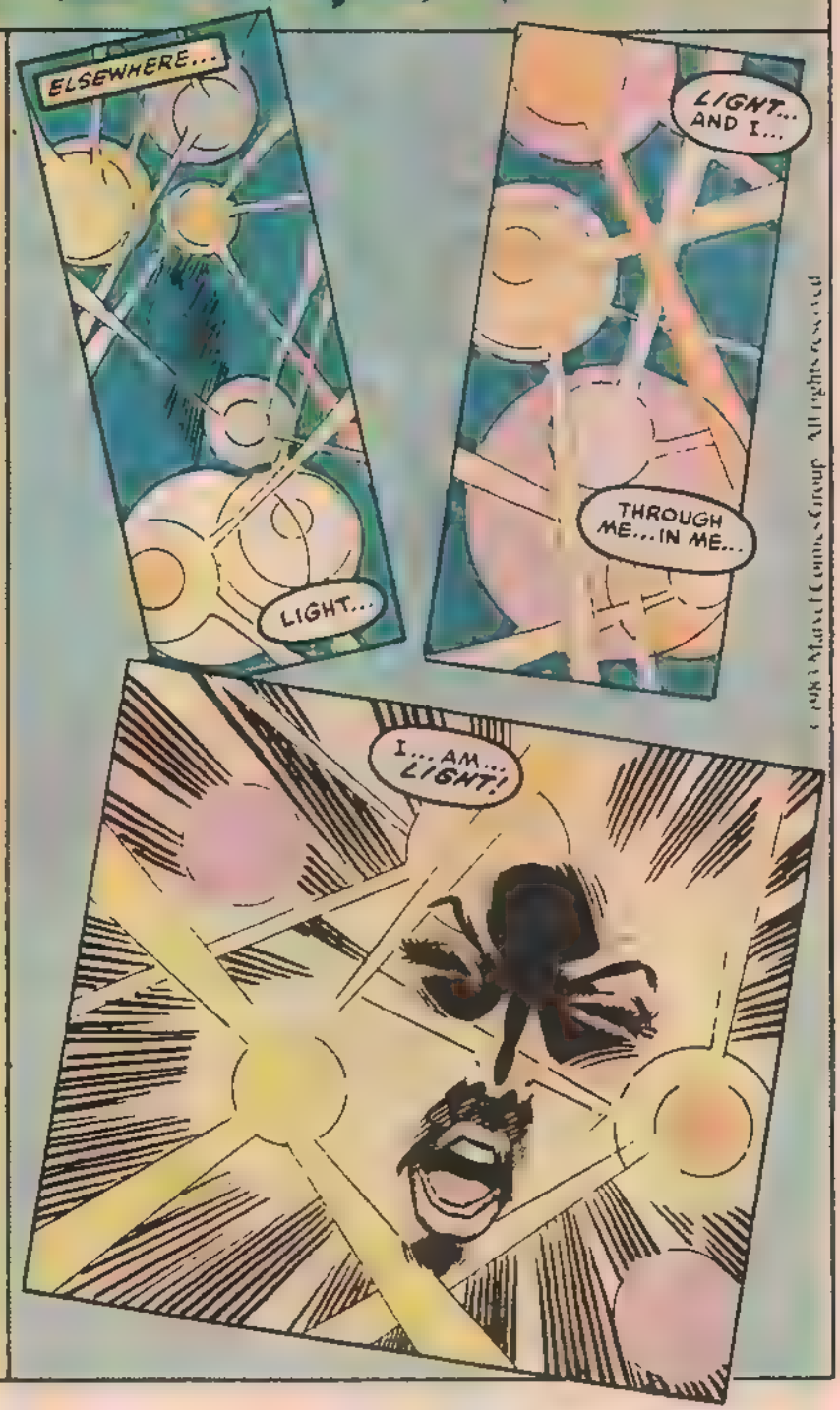
ANN: You bet! It's a love story.

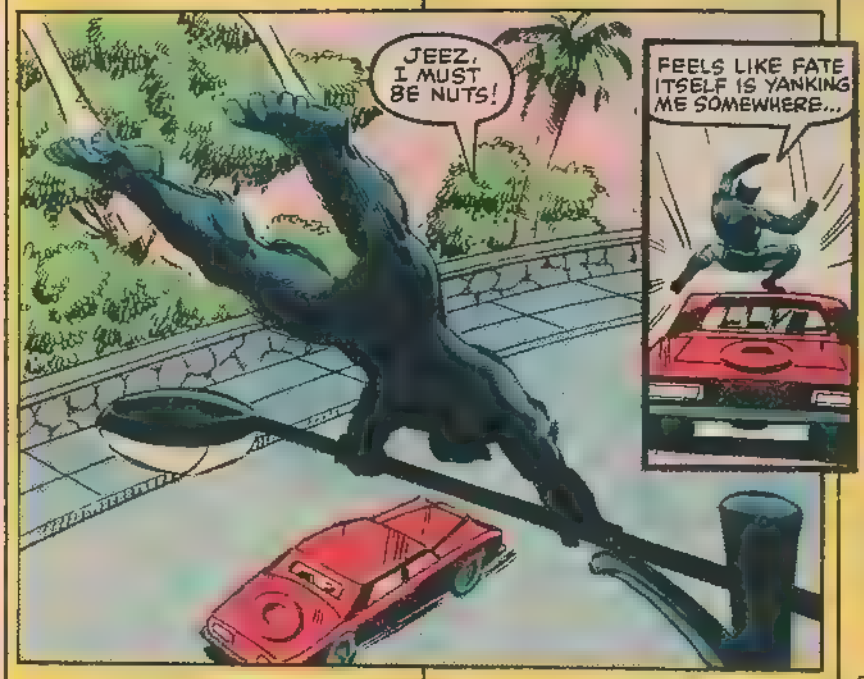
MA *A love story?*

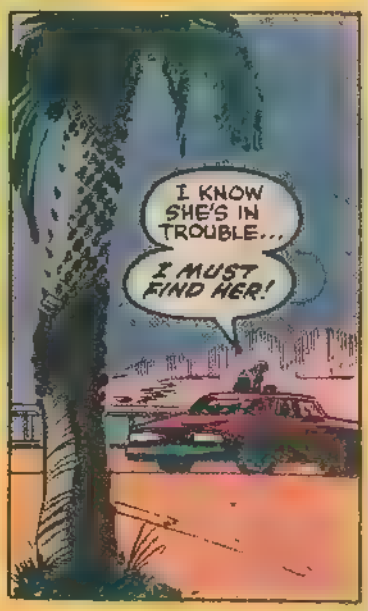
ANN: Sure. The two of them meet in Southern California, where **Dazzler** has been located ever since her rise to fame and the complications that it has brought. I won't go into the details of how success has made her life miserable, because all of that will take place in **THE DAZZLER Graphic Novel**, and I don't want to spoil any surprises. **The Beast** is out in Hollywood vacationing, and he falls for her!

MA: *That doesn't surprise us that* he'd *fall for* her *— she is a rather strikingly beautiful lady. But why would* she *go for* him?

ANN: You have to understand her character. **Alison Blaire** has never really been in control of her own destiny — she's been pushed around all







Art by **Don Perlin** and **Kim DeMulder**

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her life. Life has been a struggle for her, even more so since she's become famous. Publicly known as a mutant, **Alison** is hounded and hated, swept away by forces that she's got no control over. *Plus* — she's losing control of her light powers and is "leaking" uncontrollably!

Consequently, she's a very vulnerable woman. Her faith in herself and in humanity has been crushed time and time again. I guess you could call her a real tragic heroine in the old fashioned sense — valiant and determined in the face of overwhelming odds. But sometimes, it gets to be *too much*, ya know?

MA: *We're hip! But what's this got to do with* ***The Beast****?*

ANN: Well, **The Beast** is a sym pathetic character. **Hank McCoy** has never really been in control of his life, either. Look at his history. He, too, has been hounded ever since childhood for being a mutant. His one attempt to control his destiny, the experiment he performed on himself several years back, turned him into a shaggy monster. But more important — these two are incredibly *nice* people. They always sacrifice for others and put themselves second. In a way, that's hurt them, kept them from dealing with their destinies. I take this to the hilt in the Limited Series. They *both* seem swept away. Fate looms large and renders them helpless.

MA: *How are you handling the characterization of* ***The Beast****?*

ANN: Oh, he's his usual **Beastie** self.

MA: *So let me get this straight. These two characters meet, and they fall in love, and live happily ever after.*

ANN: If only it were that simple! Sure, **Hank** falls for **Dazz**, and because he really cares about her, he goes through some outrageous situations in her behalf.

MA: *Such as?*

ANN: **Dazzler** joins up with an underground group of mutants — far, far different from **The X-Men** or **The New Mutants**, that's for certain! — who populate an arena in a sort of gladitorial sport patronized by the rich.

MA: ***Dazzler*** *performs as an under-*

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ground gladiator for the amusement of wealthy spectators in Southern California? How decadent!

ANN: It's a pretty wild scene. The point is, though — she participates because she *has* to. She's hounded and hated by humanity. She has to make a living. Her powers are out of control. The "underground" has always been the last refuge of artists who can't make it in the mainstream. Except *this* underground turns out to be more than she bargained for. It's full of displaced people and mutants too confused to be heroic.

But the **Beast** gladly participates just to be with her, and be supportive of her. **Beast** puts himself through all *sorts* of predicaments, throughout the Limited Series, for **Dazzler's** sake. But remember — this is an *impossible* love story.

MA: *It sounds like* ***Hank*** *really loves her.*

ANN: Yes, and they both put up with a lot so they can be together.

Naturally, the public and the media are shocked by their romance. People can't accept the idea of these two being together — it would be like seeing **Christie Brinkly** and **Rin Tin Tin** walking down the street holding hands! So as swept-away as they are and powerful as their love becomes — it can't really stand up in the harsh light of day.

MA: *Outside of public prejudice and bigotry, what kinds of* villains *do* ***Dazz*** *and* ***Beast*** *meet?*

ANN: There's scores of wild mutants that wouldn't make it as super heroes. They are too selfish, or too crazy, or their powers are too silly to save the world. And there's a character in the Limited Series who claims to be the son of **Doom**!

MA: ***Doctor Doom*** *has a son?*

ANN: *Maybe.* Remember, I said he *claims* to be the son of **Doom**. And he could be one of several people. We're never sure. Suspicion points to many characters. And **Doom** himself is in the series.

MA: *Is this son of* ***Doom*** *a good guy or a bad guy? What does he want with* ***Dazzler****? What's the big secret?*

ANN: *If I tell you, it won't be a* secret!

MA: ***THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Limited Series*** *sounds daring and different. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about it?*

ANN: Nope! I've talked too much already!

That's about the size of it. We managed to get ahold of some BEAUTY AND THE BEAST artwork for you to peruse, courtesy of penciler **Don Perlin** and inker **Kim DeMulder**. Enjoy!

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THE ALIEN LEGION

by **Mark Lerer**

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE keeps its promise! Yes, we promised you more inside information about the exciting new **ALIEN LEGION** back in issue #8, and we haven't forgotten! Here's the full story. It's nothing short of the newest and most original adventure series we could come up with — and it's going to be a high-quality product from the Epic Comics Line!

As we told you, **Carl Potts**, the California-born comic artist whom you know as the editor of **THE HULK**, **DOCTOR STRANGE**, and **THE NEW DEFENDERS**, created the concept of **The Alien Legion** . . . almost eight years ago! After germinating in Carl's highly creative imagination for so long, the concept has finally crystallized. **ALIEN LEGION** is the continuing story of the wildest assortment of rebels, outcasts, and adventurers in the universe, banding together for any number of common purposes. Appropriately, **THE ALIEN LEGION** series will be presented by a diverse and adventurous creative team: penciler **Frank Cirocco**, inker **Terry Austin**, and writer **Alan Zelenetz**.

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Frank Cirocco will be a new name to many of you, although he's been active in the field of fantasty and commercial illustration for a number of years. Frank was born in East Patterson (now Elmwood Park), New Jersey in 1956. But he grew up in San Jose, California where his family moved while Frank was still quite young. A regular comic book reader from a very early age, Frank recalls, "In my hometown, people who read and collected comics were divided into two camps — the DC people and the Marvel people. I was definitely a Marvel person! I followed **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** and **SPIDER-MAN** enthusiastically, and, in fact, I began drawing as a little kid by copying pictures of **Spider-Man** out of the comic books." One of Frank's friends and fellow Marvel people was comic-

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book-artist-to-be **Brent Anderson**. "Brent got me interested in drawing the full page and laying out stories, instead of just drawing single shots," Frank told us. "Around the end of junior high school and the beginning of high school, Brent and I would write and draw our own comics together — just amateur strips that we'd do for ourselves and paste up into books for friends."

After high school, Frank attended San Jose State as an art major. Around the same time, Frank and Brent met and worked with artists **Gary Winnick** and **Tony Salmons** (the same Tony Salmons who makes his Marvel premiere in the upcoming **DR. STRANGE #64**!). In 1976, the brave group of struggling young artists packed up for New York. Says Frank, "We took a big gamble and headed for the big city, to see if we could get some on-the-job experience. When we got there, I was more interested in doing commercial work than drawing comics. Gary and I had the good fortune to land jobs with **Neal Adams'** Continuity Associates. There we ran into another old California buddy, Carl Potts.

"After about a year, Gary and I headed back to the West Coast — mostly because we missed the climate! — and founded our own studio, which we named Horizon Zero Graphics. When Gary later went to work for Atari, Horizon Zero became my own one-man operation." Under this studio's name, Frank has executed fantasy illustrations and limited edition portfolios for a number of publishers.

Carl Potts, in the interim, had stayed in New York and became an editor at Marvel. "When I finally found I had the opportunity to turn my **Alien Legion** idea into a reality," Carl recalled, "I called Frank as my first choice to pencil the book. I had always wanted to see Frank do comics. I was thrilled when he said that he'd love to work on the project. Then I enlisted another old friend to ink the book, Terry Austin."

Carl told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** that he chose Frank Cirocco and Terry Austin because the two men's styles would provide

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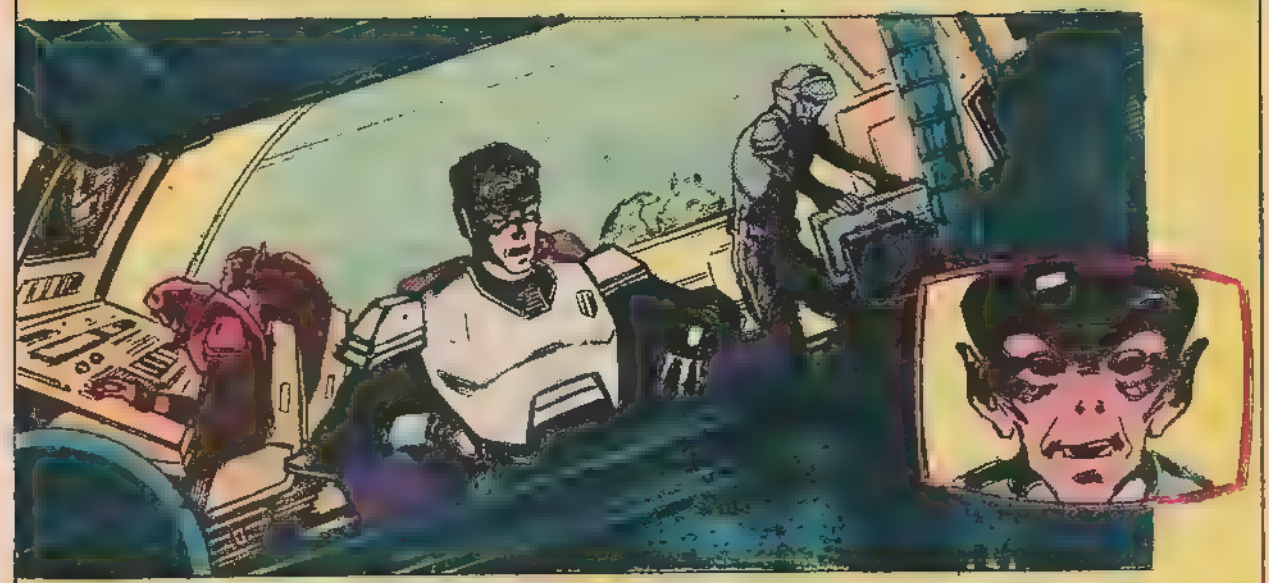

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the perfect "look" for the book. "Frank and Terry share my very specific vision for how I want **THE ALIEN LEGION** to look. It will be refined and graphic, with every page of every story designed for a clean, high-contrast look. Frank and Terry are rare artists, perfectly suited for this type of book, because they can execute a crisp and linear style without having the book be cold or sterile. Visually, **ALIEN LEGION** will have *personality*. Terry's charged and crisp inkline over Frank's beautiful sense of design and proportion give the book style, elegance, and feeling.

"Choosing a writer was difficult," Carl continued. "I asked my fellow editors around the bullpen to recommend a writer, making it clear that **ALIEN LEGION** would be a very demanding and challenging comic to write. One name kept coming up: Alan Zelenetz. I knew Alan was talented. Everyone I spoke to who had worked with Alan assured me that not only is he a hard-working and dependable professional, but that he enjoys a good challenge. Before I called him, though, I wanted to check out stories he'd previously written for Marvel. I re-read many of his stories, and perused some of his work that I hadn't read before. On everything from **THOR** to **KULL**, I was impressed with the consistent quality of his work, his feel for characterization and plot. I gave him a call. He was delighted, and we got underway."

The first **ALIEN LEGION** story deals with a major threat to a beautiful planet's natural environment. A huge illegal mining operation run by a ruthless band of renegades presents a threat to the entire world. This is a theme of tremendous personal concern to Carl, a long-time environmentalist and member of the Sierra Club. The reactions of the protagonists, and how they deal with the threat while interacting with each other, sets the tone for the series.

The Alien Legion is *not* a typical band of super heroes. In fact, they don't really possess "super" powers at all — these are ordinary "people" who fight using the natural attributes of their alien biology. What makes them exceptional are their extraordinary wills and complex personalities. Although the members of the Alien Legion are some of the strangest looking beings you'll find anywhere in comics, they are all believable characters, three-dimensional in their characterizations. The creative team, in fact, developed complete biographical profiles of each of the major characters.

Captain Sarigar, the leader of the band, for example, is descended from a genetically engineered species, originally created to be slaves. Although his people were emancipated from slavery many generations before he was born, **Sarigar** has a particularly keen sensitivity to social injustice. He is a strict disciplinarian, and an intensely private man. His lieutenent, **Torie Montroc** — who, by the way, is the most "human" looking of the group — is a bona fide realist, likely to bend the rules to get a job done, willing to take certain risks. He's warm and trusting, though — perhaps too trusting for his own good. These two men share an interesting relationship as leaders of their squad, which Carl describes as a "good cop vs. bad cop" sort of conflict. They have deep differences moderated by understanding and mutual respect. The equally well-drawn personalities of each of the others in **The Alien Legion** make for continued drama and engaging developments.

Because it's an Epic Comic, **ALIEN LEGION** will receive fine, meticulous attention, overseen by the unique editorial eye of **Archie Goodwin**. Because it's on high-quality Mando paper and features no advertising, **ALIEN LEGION** will have a beautiful package to showcase the stunning artwork of **Frank Cirocco** and **Terry Austin**. And because it's from Marvel, it's going to be the kind of comics *you*, the discriminating reader, are going to enjoy! That's a promise.

That's **ALIEN LEGION**. Coming soon from Epic Comics. 'Nuff said. ●

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

This month's New Talent Department features the work of **Katherine Orlando**, from Commack, Long Island. **Kathy** is beginning as an inker for Marvel, having broken into the business inking backgrounds for **Frank Giacoia** and **Mike Esposito**. **Kathy** has an interesting background — she didn't pick up a comic book until she was nineteen years old! "When I was twelve, I was reading the Wall Street Journal, and now that I'm an adult I'm reading comics!" confesses **Kathy**. **Kathy** was an artist who was dissatisfied working within the field of advertising, when she met **John Tartaglione**. **John** saw her work and mentioned that she would have a flair for illustrating comics. **Kathy** really became excited when she first saw the work of **John Buscema**. "I fell in love with how beautifully the man draws, his anatomy, his range, and expression. What an exciting change this was from the dull world of advertising!" For the past two years, **Kathy** has been working ceaselessly, developing her skills as an artist. Most recently, she inked backgrounds for **Steve Mitchell** on **IRON MAN**. More of her background inking can be seen in the upcoming **X-MEN / MICRONAUTS LIMITED SERIES**. **Kathy** and **Rick Bryant** handled most of the background inking for **Bob Wiacek**. She's been working closely with **Bob**, who offered this brief critique:

"**Kathy's** off to an excellent beginning. She is well acquainted with her tools, especially the pen and what it can do. **Kathy** has farther to go in learning the brush, because the brush is a very difficult instrument to learn how to use. You can see **Kathy's** style emerging when she inks such background devices as machinery and foliage.

"I tell my inkers that when you want to render foliage, you must practice drawing it from real life. Go out and draw a real tree before attempting to ink a tree from knowledge of comic books. Only when you understand such structures from life can you appreciate how the comic artist interprets them. **Kathy** so far has a much better command of rendering machinery.

"**Kathy** must keep working on the proper way to convey depth. Very frequently an inexperienced inker will flatten out the figures because he or she doesn't know how to spot blacks, that is, place shadows. On the samples I've seen, **Kathy's** done very well with the good fortune of inking a good penciller, **Paul Smith**, whose figures have real depth and weight in space.

"Kathy's definitely on to something. I can't wait to see her develop into a really fine inker, and perhaps an equally fine penciler."

Inks by **Kathy Orlando**.

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Pencils by **Paul Smith**

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Inks by Kathy Orlando

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For anyone interested in submitting work to us, the format and requirements are printed in FANFARE #4. A brief recap of them is listed below:

SendXeroxes,do not send original art. Each submission should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with proper postage. Otherwise, we cannot return them, and they will be thrown away.

WRITERS – Submit brief plot synopses ONLY. Do not send scripts, short stories, or long, long outlines. Submissions MUST be typed. A plot synopsis should be less than two typed pages. Send two synopses at most.

PENCILERS – Submit, 2-4 pages of panel-to-panel continuity. DO NOT send pin-ups, abstract art, landscapes, etc. Draw with pencil on kid-finish Bristol paper. Your pages should be one half times larger than the pages in the printed comics. Draw any character you want, but show a variety of settings and situations. Prove that you can draw ordinary people, super heroes, action and quiet scenes.

INKERS – This is a tough one. First, you've got to get a pencil drawing to ink, yours or someone else's. It's perfectly all right to trace the drawing. Again the drawing should be on kid-finish Bristol paper, and preferably it should be panel-to-panel continuity. Before inking the pencil art (with india ink) PHOTOCOPY it. Submit both the inked pencil drawing and the photocopy of the original pencil art. Two to four pages is fine.

LETTERERS – Submit samples of lettering approximately one-and-one-half times larger than the lettering printed in the comics. Include samples of sound-effects, titles, and display lettering. Letter your sample in India ink on kid-finish Bristol paper.

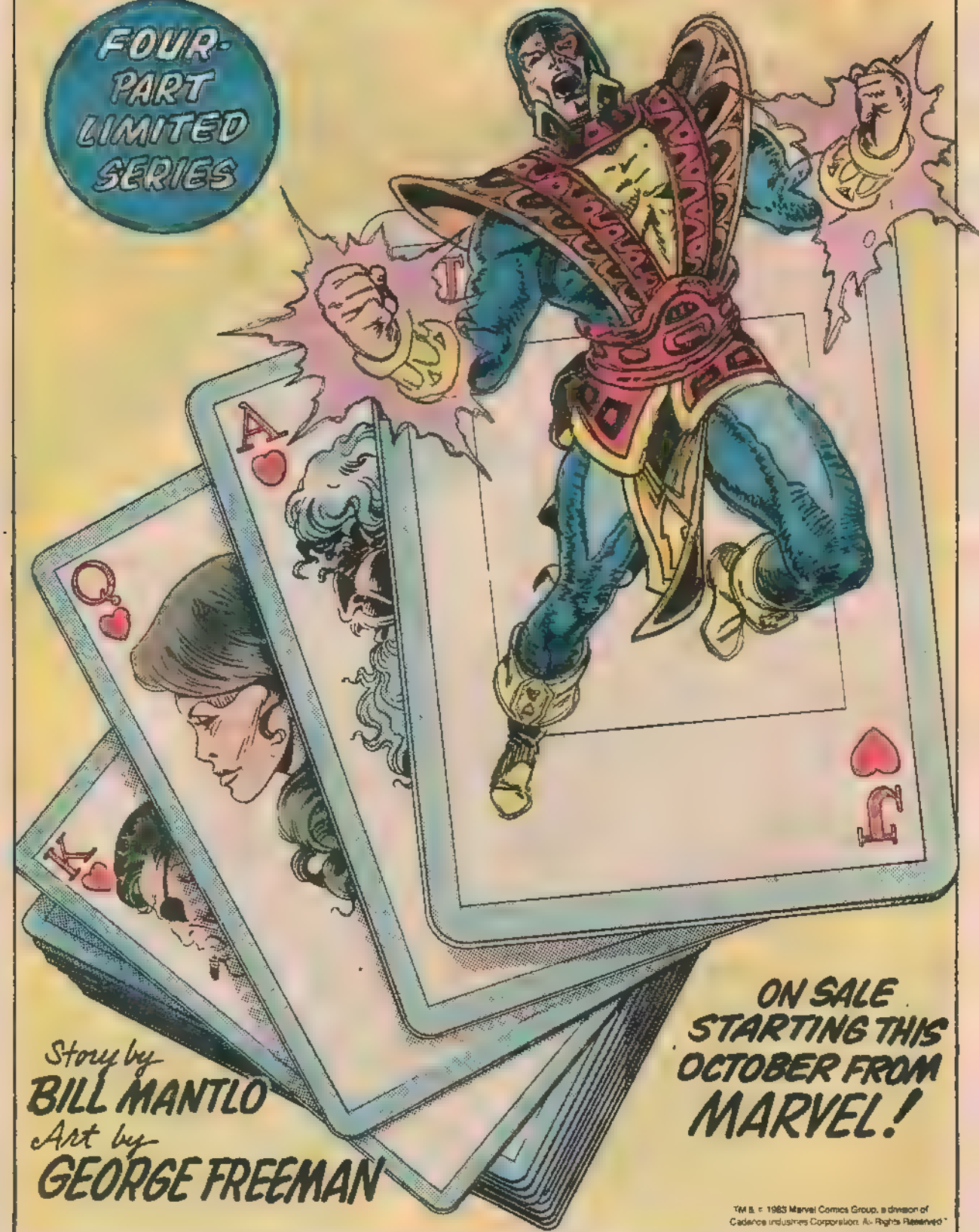
COLORISTS – There really is no easy way to submit coloring samples because our coloring process is very complicated and very specialized. If you really want to try, though, buy a copy of a Marvel pocket book that has black-and-white printing. These are on sale at most stores that carry paperbacks. Photocopy half a dozen or so pages on BOND PAPER. Color these bond paper copies with colored inks, dyes, watercolors, or whatever. We use Dr. Martin's watercolor dyes which may not be available where you are, but that's not important. If your samples are really outstanding and we want to try you out on some of our regular pages using our professional materials we'll LOAN you a coloring kit. Remember, however, that our regular printing process is very restrictive. A lot of modeling and color blending will only prove to us that you don't know the limits of our processes. In general, the simpler your coloring samples are, the better they are.

All submissions should be addressed to:

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief
Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

THE JACK OF HEARTS

FOUR-PART LIMITED SERIES



Story by
BILL MANTLO
Art by
GEORGE FREEMAN

ON SALE STARTING THIS OCTOBER FROM MARVEL!

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LETTERS

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE %Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Hey, remember when everybody wrote in, telling us that we misspelled the name of our adventuring spaceknight, calling him *RON* instead of *ROM*? Well, we did it again — we goofed and everybody wrote in about it! In *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* #8, we printed an excerpt from *X-MEN ANNUAL* #4 — and we mistakenly labeled it *X-MEN ANNUAL* #3! Sheesh! We just don't have enough no-prizes to send in to everybody who caught the mistake ('cause we used 'em up last issue!), but thanks for writing and keeping us on our toes. And now, on with the letters!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

I have been a faithful follower of Marvel Comics for approximately ten years. I feel the Limited Series program you've begun is a brilliant example of what makes Marvel work. It manages to give, in a confined format, remarkable insight into subtle characterizations and complex situations which enhance the lives of your super heroes. I was especially impressed by the colorful **HERCULES Limited Series**, in which the Lion of Olympus wonders how gods should be worshipped after witnessing the mass suicide of the fanatical Kawas. Here's a suggestion. **Hercules** could be matched up against the Champion of the Universe, **Tryco Slatterus**. This encounter could provide a tremendous battle and physical adventure set in space, and could also further develop the subtle undertones of doubt and conflict which were in the first series. Such a tale could explore the justice and ethical values of certain forms of worship, and make an extremely interesting comic. I understand that there will be a second **HERCULES Limited Series**. I leave you with my interest and approval for as long as Olympus stands.

J. S. Belladonna
30 Union Turnpike 8-A
Wharton, NJ 07885

There is indeed a second *HERCULES Limited Series* coming to you this fall, written and drawn by *Bob Layton*. Miss it at your own risk.

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

About **Reed Richards** saving **Galactus's** life — why? **Reed** knows how great a threat **Galactus** is. Remember, he almost ate the Earth, and only **the Fantastic Four** saved us! If you ask me, I think **Reed** should be prosecuted to the full extent of the Shi'ar law, even if it's the death penalty! Think — **Galactus** may cause millions of deaths because **Reed** saved him! Anyway, on a higher note (b-flat), **MARVEL AGE** is one terrific mag, and thanks for your time.

Ricky Cheechov
2635 Sequoia Way
Belmont, CA 94002

***Everybody's* got a strong opinion on this one — and no doubt everybody's going to be following the dramatic and suspenseful trial of *Reed Richards* in *THE FANTASTIC FOUR*! Only the master storyteller *John Byrne* knows how it will turn out, and he's promised to keep us on the edge of our chairs through every moment of the ordeal!**

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

Do I remember **NOT BRAND ECHH**? Does **Irving Forbush** read Marvel Comics? I recognized the one and only **Forbush-Man** on the corner of the cover. A notable oversight in last month's map of the bullpen was **Irving Forbush's** office. I know that he must still be there, somewhere.

R. E. Miller
X Division
U.S.S. Yosemite
FPO Miami, FL 04083

Yeah, he's around here *somewhere* — but whenever there's any work to be done, nobody can seem to find him!

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

Thank you for the long overdue interview with **Stan Lee** and **Jim Shooter**. It was good to have some of the rumors that have been floating around cleared up by the two major sources in the Marvel Universe. I also enjoyed **Stan's** short listing of the upcoming projects from Marvel Productions, Ltd. I hope there will be a closer look at Marvel's animation and motion picture production facilities in an upcoming issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**.

Speaking of animation, I would like to thank Marvel for its adaptation of **ROCK AND RULE**. Though the movie has been shelved indefinitely, I was able to enjoy the story through **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL** #25 as if I had gone to the theatre.

Will Marvel be able to adapt other animated features? It would be great if Marvel could adapt some of the great Japanese animated features from Toei Animation Studios of Japan. **The Space Cruiser Yamato** films (known in the U.S. as **Star Blazers**), **Galaxy Express 999**, and **Captain Harlock** would make great comics. As a part-time dealer in Japanese animation books, I know that there are many fans who would love to see such adaptations.

W. K. Mimbu
13801 Somerset Ln. SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

A fascinating and exciting suggestion, W. K.! How many readers

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would like to see Marvel do more adaptations of animated features? Let us know, people!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

Just finished reading the New Talent Department in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #8, and I think **Rod Whigham's** artwork is absolutely terrific! The depth of the picture on page 28, and the beauty of the illustration on page 30 convinced me that I'd like to see **Rod's** work in more Marvel comics!

By the way, back in **MARVEL AGE** #1, **Louise Jones** said that **Professor X's** son would be joining **the New Mutants**. When will this happen? Also, what has happened to X'ian Coy Manh, otherwise known as **Karma**?

Vinny Totino
50–28 103rd St.
Corona, NY 11368

You'll be pleased to know that *Rod Whigham* will be penciling an upcoming *Dr. Strange* story! It'll knock your socks off!

We asked *Weezie* when *Professor X's* son would be joining *the New Mutants*, and she said . . . "Eventually!" Then we asked her about the fate of *Karma* and, cryptic as ever, she replied . . . "That would be telling!" Which is the delightful *Ms. J.'s* way of saying . . . keep reading, and you'll find out!

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

I'm proud of you! Not only have you guys got one really good and inexpensive magazine here, but you put it out monthly. Your magazine is great, and it shows that you guys are more friendly than I'd expected!

M. A. C.
4819 Dorset Ave.
Cho Cho, MI 20815

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

I'm sure you've gotten lots of suggestions for heroes to start in your Limited Series. Why not try a villain? Maybe you could use **Doctor Doom**. I for one would enjoy reading about this very interesting man. Also, how about **Baron Karza** from **THE MICRONAUTS**? How did he get the way he is? What does he actually look like under his armor? Thanks for reading my ideas, and thanks for a Marvel-ous and informative magazine!

Steve Rogers
608 Grand Drive
Metairie, LA 70003

We've gotten several requests for a Limited Series starring a villain instead of a hero. The idea grabs us — because it would be just the sort of thing that only Marvel would attempt. (And thanks to *Todd Beard* of Duluth, Georgia, for his suggestions along these lines!)

And now the moment we have all been waiting for!

What is it, you ask?

It's time to tally up all the many votes and suggestions that we've received regarding . . . ta-ta-ta-taaaaa . . . The Great Marvel Age Magazine Letter Column Title Controversy!

Since running the ballot in issue #7, we've been deluged with dozens of ideas for the official title-to-be of Marvel's nuttiest letters page. Some of the suggested titles that we printed received as many as three votes! The vast majority of you made up your own titles, which were usually better than the ones we came up with! And many of you, like *Geoffrey Peckman* of Brooklyn, New York, sent in beautifully done artwork for logos. Anyway, here are the most popular choices, according to your votes:

Marvel Post-Age	**— 4 votes**
Marvel Mail Bagg-Age	**— 4 votes**
Age Page	**— 3 votes**
Marvel Page	**— 2 votes**

. . . and, believe it or not, "Marvel Sage Age Rage Page Gauge" actually got two votes! Some of the more creative titles that we received were: Marvel Image, Fan's Pans, Marvel's Age-Less Wonders, Page of the Age, Marvel's Page About The Future Age, and The Marvel Age Enquirer!

So what are we gonna call this letter column? Well, we want to share one final suggestion with ya . . .

Dear Marvel Sages,

I really think you are making a big fuss over a problem which you already have a solution for. I'm talking about this Letter Column Controversy. For the past few issues you have been using a different title for the letter column each month, and I think you should continue doing so! Think about it. You can have a contest each month with the winner getting his name in print for millions to see, or you can give out no-prizes.

I admit that this has never been done before, but that's what Marvel is all about, and what better place to show the spirit of Marvel than in its very own magazine, Marvel Age. So how about it?

Tian Tzuo
(address withheld)

This final suggestion leaves us a bit perplexed. Here we thought we had the whole thing solved, when somebody comes up with an even better idea!

Well, we're gonna think it over. See you all next month! ●

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Beauty AND THE BEAST
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